

WICOMICO COUNTY HEALTH PLANNING BOARD

C/O WICOMICO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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May 4, 2007

Rex Cowdry, M.D. M.P.H., Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

2007 MAY -7 PM 3:20

RE: The MHCC's approval of request for a Research Waiver by the Atlantic Cardiovascular Patient Outcomes Research Team (C-PORT) to Study Non-Primary PCI Performed in Maryland Hospitals without On-Site Cardiac Surgery

Dear Dr. Cowdry:

On behalf of the Wicomico County Health Planning Board, we are writing this letter to urge the Commission to only grant four research waivers for non-primary PCI. We further urge the Commission to seriously consider hospitals located in areas 60 minutes or further normal travel distance of a facility providing open heart surgery. We support the Commission's decision to participate in this research, but are concerned with approving more than four sites. Our concerns are based upon our belief that all Maryland citizens should have access to high quality cardiac care provided at experienced facilities within 60 minutes driving time. Additionally, patient safety is a prime concern for all of us and by limiting the number of sites to four, you can reduce the potential number of adverse outcomes.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Scott Wilson

Vice Chairperson

Wicomico County Health Planning Board